

# Archaeological studies

## Minimum Requirements

Work must be completed under the direct supervision of a Minnesota licensed archaeologist.

## Description

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects their actions have on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on such actions. The Section 106 process seeks to accommodate historic preservation concerns with the purpose and need of the federal action through consultation among the agency officials and other parties that have an interest in the effects the action has on historic properties, commencing at the early stages of project planning. The goal of the archaeology study is to identify, evaluate and provide recommendations on the eligibility of archaeological properties within the area of potential effects (APE) of the action, or to perform mitigation for adverse effects for archaeological properties eligible for, or listed on, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). For highway projects designed or constructed with state or federal funds, all determinations of the APE, the NRHP eligibility of identified resources, the effects of an undertaking, and the development of mitigation programs must be completed by MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) staff acting on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

## Standards and specifications

May include the following:

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 Federal Register 44716-44740; National Park Service)
- MnDOT's Cultural Resource Unit Project and Report Requirements (2017)
- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota (2005)
- MnDOT Geographic Information System (GIS) Standards (2002)
- MnDOT's Standards for Archaeological and Historic Structures Data (2002)
- MnDOT's Deep Testing Protocol (2006)

## Typical services

Project deliverables may include the following:

- Archaeology studies in accordance with appropriate federal and state standards:
  - **Level I – Pre-contact archaeological work**  
Phase I archaeological identification, Phase II pre-contact archaeological site evaluation, Phase I and II pre-contact deep testing, and Phase III pre-contact archaeological data recovery work.
    - Archaeology identification, pre-contact deep testing, pre-contact evaluation and pre-contact mitigation field work and reports.
    - Appropriate site forms, photographs, curation, and GIS data by project.
  - **Level II – Historic archaeological work**  
Phase I archaeological identification, Phase II historic archaeological site evaluation, and Phase III historic archaeological data recovery work.
    - Archaeological identification, historic archaeology evaluation and mitigation fieldwork and reports.
    - Appropriate site forms, photographs, curation, and GIS data by project.